The right of more than one Government member to answer questions supplementary to a primary question.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR.

A member, as per rule 14 of the Legislative Council Rules and para 34 of the Legislative Council Manual, can put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating a matter of fact stated in answer to an original question. Now, questions are put by non-official members to Government and not to any particular officer of the Government or any particular member. The official members are representing the Government. If a supplementary question is put to the Government, and if the particular officer in charge of the subject has not sufficient information to give, or if that particular officer cannot answer it, is it not open to the other members representing the Government to assist him? It is on this point that I want your ruling.

In other Councils, I think, they allow it. If one Government member is not able to answer fully, it is only proper on the part of his colleagues to answer the question, and it is only the right of the Government to allow them to do so.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

I ask for a definite ruling. The object of our questions is to get a right answer, whoever answers it.

President.—As to the right of the non-official members to take part in the asking of supplementary questions, Dr. A. G. Menon has already explained that it is not a matter of interpretation but of amendment. The Government should take steps to amend the rule.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

I want just now to draw the attention of the President to one point. A member to whom a supplementary question is put may decline to answer it.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

We do not get the advantage of putting questions together.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Rules with regard to the conduct of business in the Council prescribe that the member speaking must address the President. When members speak among themselves, it is not conducive to the dignity of the Council.

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Dr. A. R. MENON.

There are so many things done in this Council which are inconsistent with the dignity of a Council.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

I protest against that remark.

President.—That statement should be proved.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

People go out and come in always, and this I feel to be against the modesty of the Council.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

This is a minor offence.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

That does not deserve a rebuke from a member of the Government.

President.—Is there not a rule in existence that the members should address only the President and not anybody else?

Dr. A. R. MENON.

It is more convenient to confine to a certain angle of vision when we are addressing.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Rebuke a non-official member, much more an Hon'ble Member of my own profession! Well, I only say that we should keep up our dignity.

President.—The rules lay down these things for our guidance. There is a sense of responsibility among the members. They know the rules, but sometimes, in the heat of the discussion, strict adherence to the rules is not possible, and these are all evasions which should not be seriously taken notice of.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

We want light not heat.

President.—The Hon'ble Member, Mr. Satyamurti somewhere said "Too much heat we get from good light."

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

In the printed "Questions and Answers," there is always the name of the officer given, and I think that officer should answer the question.

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President.—Of course, he answers. It is only information to the officer that is supplied by the others.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

It will be unfair if all the officers join together in a body and answer one member. That officer should not be helped by another member.

President.—That is only answering, Mr. Ravunni Menon.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Even in answering, as far as each question is concerned, each member should be considered separate. If one official member is not able to answer, all the official members join in a body and run to his rescue. The non-officials are not allowed to do so. I think it would be unfair to them to do so.

President.—In that case you may not get the proper answer. If the officers join together, the answers given will be more complete and satisfactory.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

The object of supplementary questions is to elucidate. The non-official members should be thankful, if the official members put their heads together.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

This is like a cross-examination of a witness. So many people ask questions to which the Head of the Department gives vague answers. We want correct answers.

President.—The answer given in a cross-examination proceeds on the facts given in the examination. So, your statement is not true. Here there is no such thing. You want some information to be given. It is being supplied when supplementary questions are asked. You will not be strictly right in calling it cross-examination.

Mr. T. A. RAMA CHANDRA AYYAR

If those questions are answered fully, there will be no necessity for further questions.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Only the member to whom a supplementary question is put may decline the answer; anybody else cannot answer. So that it is only one member that can answer. I must raise my voice of protest against the desultory way of procedure that we are drifting into. The rules of procedure are explicitly laid down as to how a member should speak, what he should speak,

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and the manner in which it should be spoken in this House. I am afraid that we are drifting into the way of a debating society. I must raise my voice of protest against the non-official members addressing one another, putting supplementary questions, or speaking in the House, except in the manner framed under the rules. When one submits a point of order, no member has got any right to contribute anything. Only the point of order has to be stated, and he is to sit down and wait for the ruling from the Chair. If not, the business of the House will not progress as swiftly as we desire.

President.—Mr. Salem, we are just now working the rules of this Council. We are not familiar with the rules, and it is only proper and necessary that we should try and understand all the aspects of each question. Once we have come to a decision, there the matter ends. You must have noticed that my endeavour has all along been to try to find out what all points have to be considered in connection with a particular matter and to give my ruling.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Thank you, Sir.

President.—I consider what you have stated to be most objectionable, and then, I hope you will withdraw your expression at once. The dignity and prestige of the House is it affected by

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I only—

President.—When I am speaking, you have no right to speak. We are not like a machinery screwed in by the rules. We want to understand things properly and the true spirit underlying them. That is the object. I do not think the dignity and prestige of the Council will be affected, so far as I am concerned. We want to ascertain how the matter stands with regard to the sections and the provisions bearing on them. You call it a desultory discussion. I am taking pains to conduct the proceedings in an orderly fashion. One of my fundamental prinpiples is that the dignity and prestige of the House must be maintained. I do it, and I will do it so long as I will hold this position. But I allow liberty to members to speak simply because further light can be thrown on the point. It is not an easy question to decide, especially when we are new to the working of the Council Not that I am not aware of the rule that, when one member speaks, another should it down, and the member must always

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address the President. These are well-known rules. In the heat of the discussion, members will have to address each other. Those are all emotions accidental to the discussion, and if you were to ask the President to take objection to every such thing, he will have nothing else to do.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

The questions for the day are over.

Statement laid on the Table.

Mr. K. KRISHNA PISHARODI.

Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, VIII of 1098.

Item	Amount	Remarks
Demand 11. Registration	Rs. 240	On account of the entertainment of two clerks on Rs. 20 each for a period of six months in the Registry Offices of Vatakkumkara and Vellarappalli, as work had increased considerably in both the offices and as the staff of one Head clerk and a clerk allowed to each of the offices was not able to cope with the growing work.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON.

Sir, I rise to a point of order. "Laying on the table" means, I think, a printed copy must be supplied to each and every member. Secondly, the section provides that "as early as possible', it should be laid on the table.

President.—Yes. "As soon as may be thereafter".

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON.

On the first day of the session. Unless the reasons for not laying on the table on the first day are given, I don't know whether it would be in order to place a statement on the third day. When the motion for supplementary grant was tabled, there was a ruling from the Chair that, because it was not referred to the Finance Committee, it is not in order to move it. I don't know whether Rule 52 can be invoked.

President.—You must make a distinction between the rule invoked and rule 53. Rule 53 applies to supplementary grants and additional grants. Rule 52 relates to expenditure incurred by Government under section 16 (9) of the Regu-

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